(d) whether it would be appropriate to suspend Government grants to universities acting unconstitutionally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) which is the apex body for coordination and maintenance of standards of higher education in the country have issued necessary guidelines to all Universities, including Central Universities and UGC maintained deemed universities to strictly adhere to the norms laid down for implementation of the policy of reservation in regard to recruitment as well as in filling up backlog thereto.

In so far as Central Universities are concerned, 224 posts for SCs and 128 posts for STs had been identified as backlog vacancies. Out of which, 184 posts of SCs and 91 posts of STs have been filled till January, 2008.

The Government and the UGC have been reminding Central Universities to fill vacant position in respect of the backlog. This issue has also been taken up in the meeting with Vice Chancellor and Registrars of these Universities. In addition, UGC has written to Central Universities and UGC maintained Deemed Universities that no further Non-Plan grant to the Institutions would be released till such time the policy of reservation is adopted and also informed all the Institutions which are deficient in the prescribed percentage of reservation to fill the backlog of reservation in teaching and non-teaching posts within six months.

GER of higher education

1410. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of higher education is 9.7 per cent only;

(b) whether it reveals that India is facing a deep crisis in higher education;

(c) how it compares with GER of developed/ developing countries; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to improve higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The present Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is estimated to be about 11%, as compared to world average of 23.2%. To improve higher education, budgetary allocation for higher education has been progressively increased during the last three years. In order to achieve the targeted GER of an additional 5 percentage points by the end of XI Plan, a substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made for the expansion of higher education, by way of setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, and Schools of Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, setting up of new colleges in low GER districts through partnership with State Governments are also some of the steps for achieving higher GER.